

**TICKET INSERTION: LOAD INFORMATION FOR ASSURED FORWARDING**  
**CLASSES**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Disclosed are methods and apparatus for providing load information for one or  
5 more data streams within a network having a plurality of ingress routers, a plurality of  
core routers, and a plurality of egress routers is disclosed. a plurality of packets are  
received into a selected ingress router. Each packet belongs to one of several service  
classes, and the packets are being transmitted to a particular destination. A load value  
is metered for each service class and the particular destination of at least one of the  
10 packets. One or more tickets are periodically transmitted to the destination to indicate  
the load value for each of the one or more service classes. This load information is  
then utilized to dynamically allocate load for each service class at the destination.